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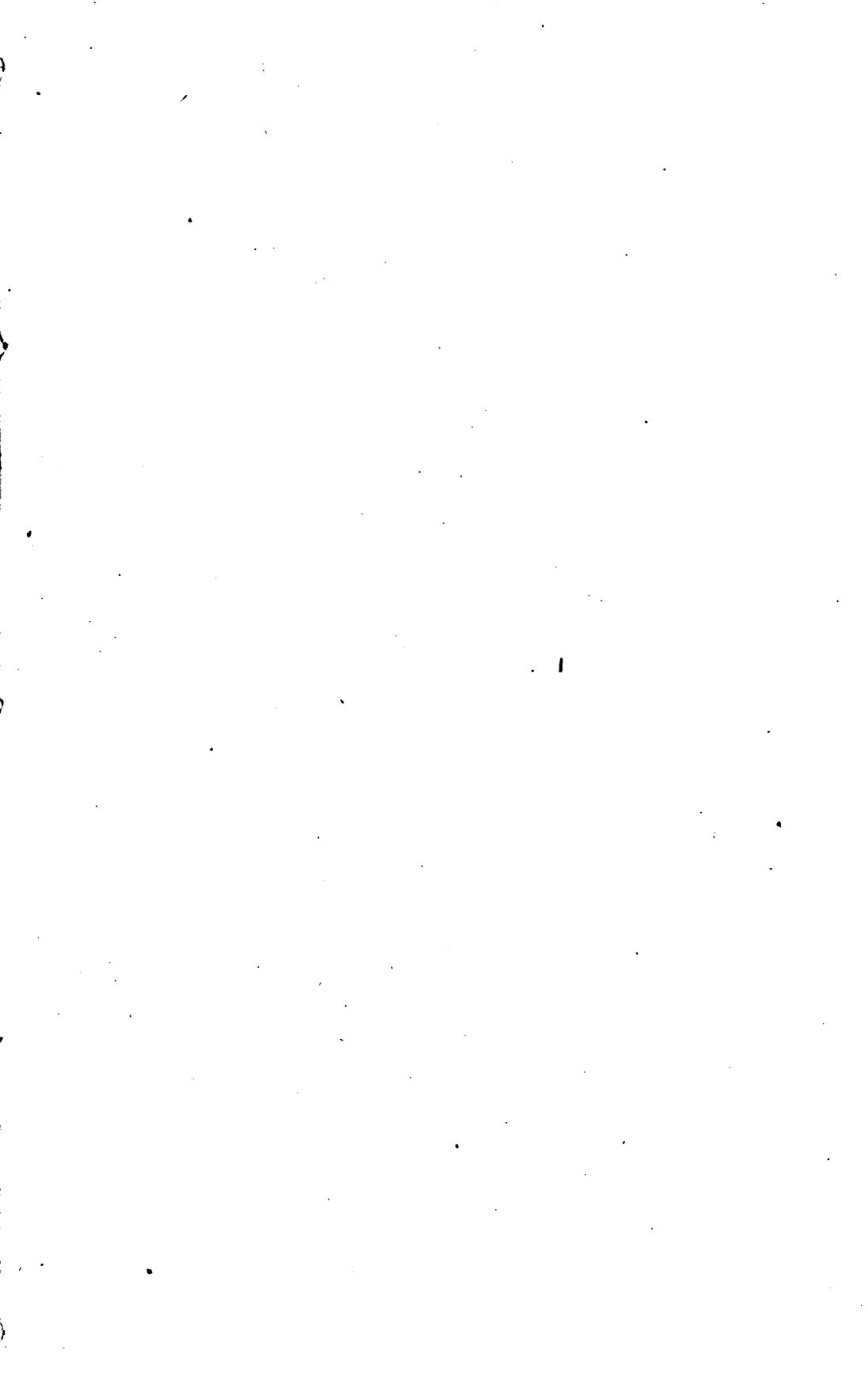
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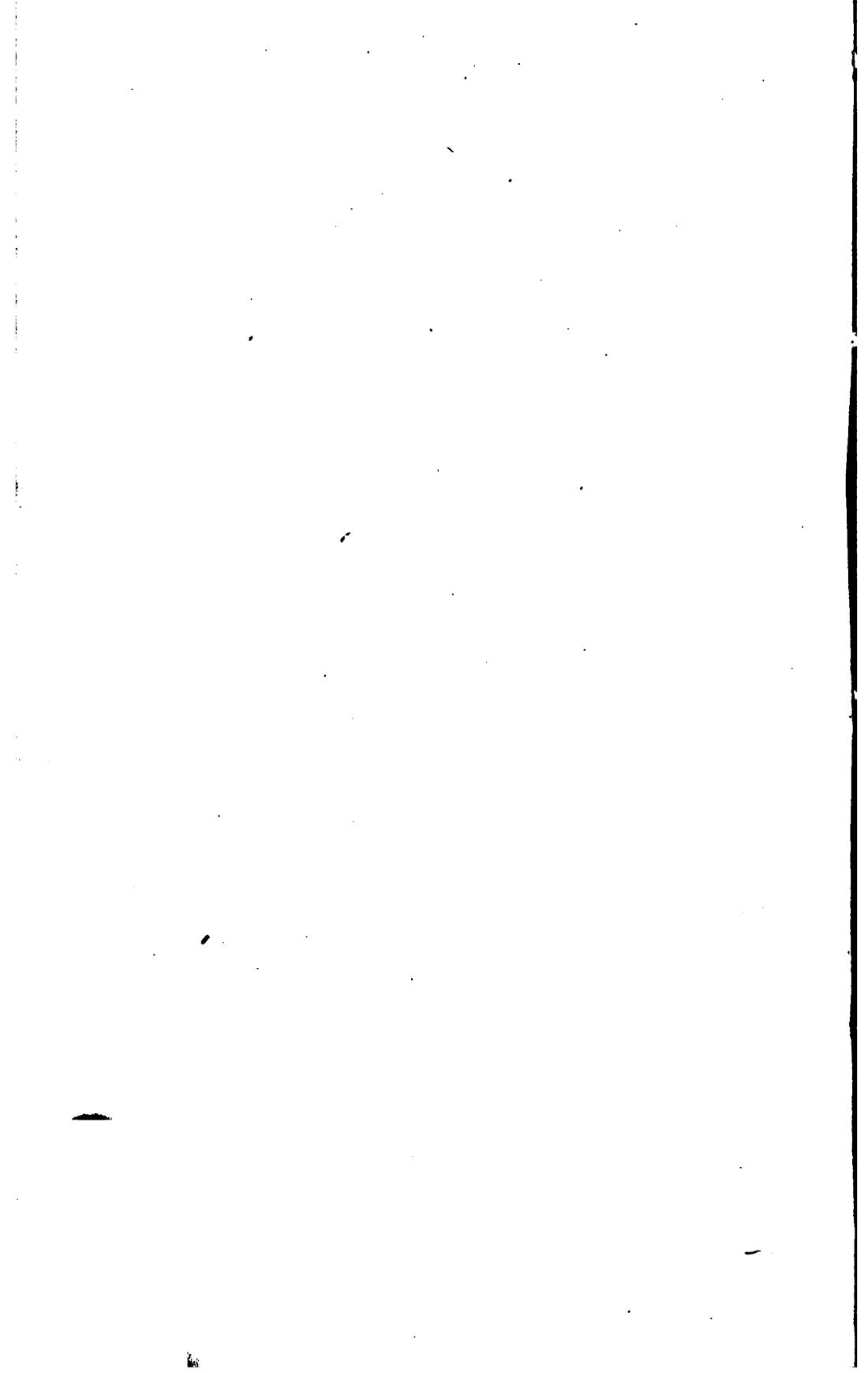
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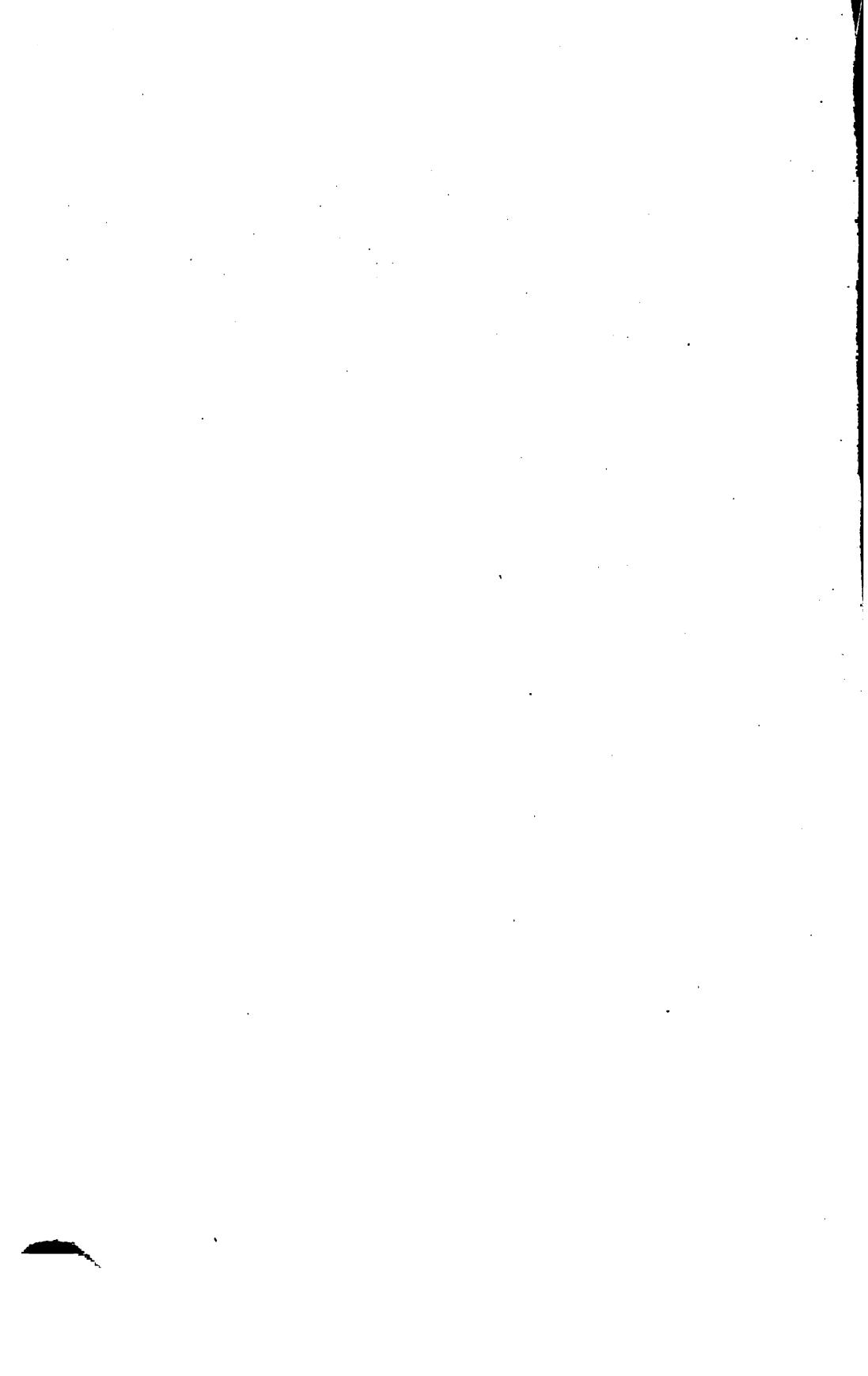


Jonathan Trumbull

**Address** to the

Advanced scholars  
Of the Public schools at  
Hartford, Conn.  
December 3, 1897

By Henry C. Robinson, LL.D.



**JONATHAN TRUMBULL**

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**ADDRESS**

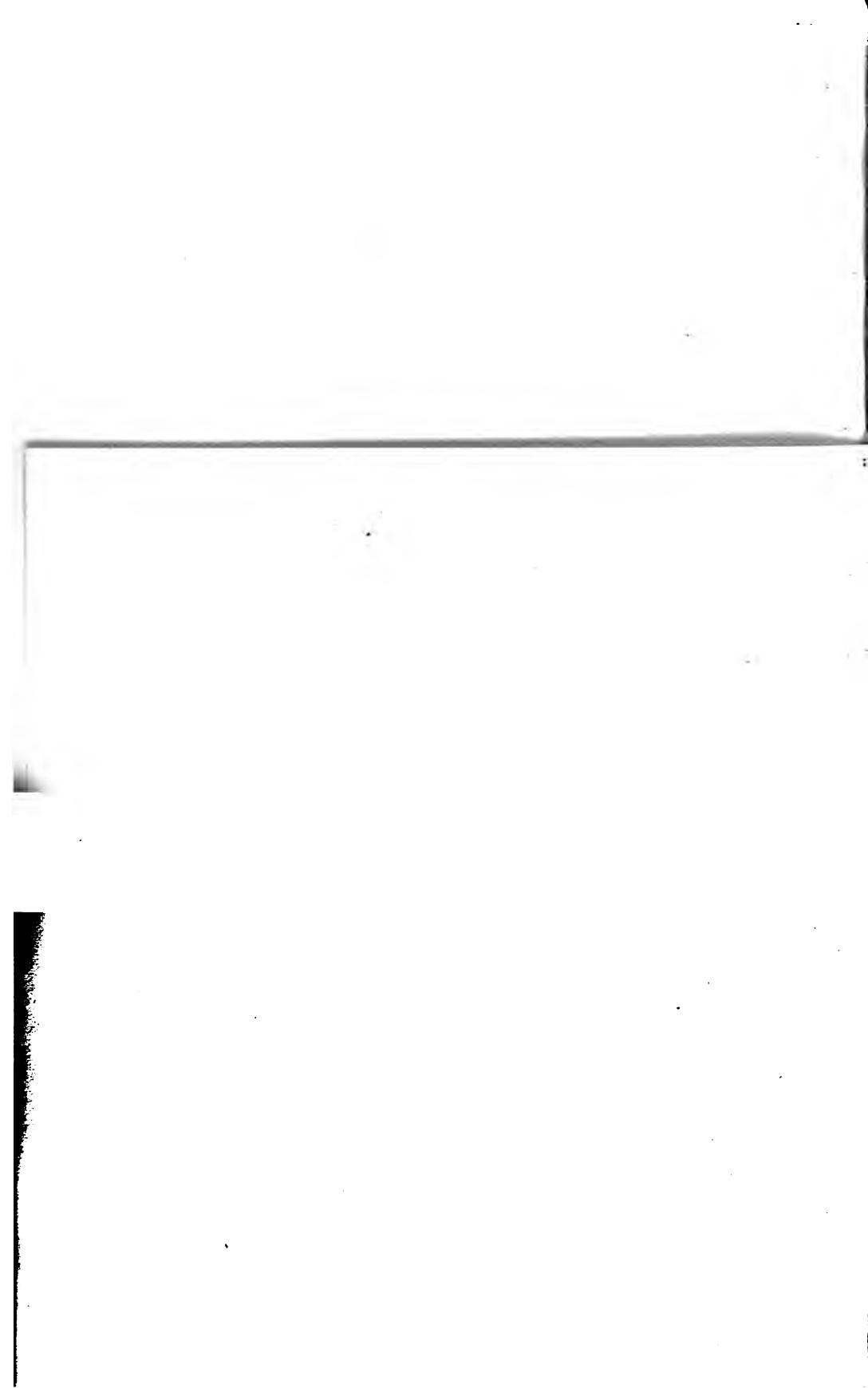
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1898



JONATHAN TRUMBULL

ADDRESS

TO THE ADVANCED SCHOLARS

OF THE

PUBLIC SCHOOLS AT HARTFORD, DECEMBER 3, 1897

BY

HENRY C. ROBINSON, LL.D.

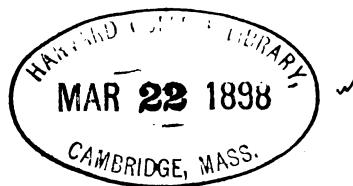


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The Author

## A D D R E S S.

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FOUR of the men selected as subjects for your thought and study in this course were chiefly active in civil life. Although each of them was an efficient contributor to the success of the Continental arms in the Revolution, only one of them was distinctively a military hero. The fact is rather a significant one. The ordinary student of history follows the generals. The glitter of their swords lightens the pages of history, and the hoof-prints of their horses are mere-stones in national boundaries and milestones in national progress. But the army itself is not altogether an affair of swords and bayonets. Wellington told us that an army moved on its stomach. The commissaries and the quartermasters, who provide for food and supplies and their transportation, are not conspicuous in headlines which announce the results of battles; but they are, nevertheless, often elements in victories, and as often causes of defeats.

The soil of Connecticut was little trod by British or Hessian soldiers, or by unfriendly Indians, in the Revolutionary War. Our colony furnished many more than its share of men for the campaign, but their marches usually, and almost always, carried them into other colonies for the common cause. It is hardly less to our credit that, although nature has given us a small territory of fertility, when compared with some of our neighbors, yet the contributions of food and material supplies by the colony were so largely in excess of the proportion due from us that Connecticut was known through the Revolution, in addition to her other honors, as "the provision state." To no single individual, who lived within our borders, is the cause of American

independence so largely indebted for its success as to Jonathan Trumbull. The honors which he has received from the historians and from Connecticut have not been extravagant. His statue, with Roger Sherman's, properly represents our State in the rotunda of the National Capitol, and a reproduction of these two statues adorns the face of our State Capitol. The Sons of the American Revolution have honored themselves in restoring his old war office.

A comprehensive life of Jonathan Trumbull has been written by a Hartford historian. It is a useful contribution to history, significant of wide research, and invaluable to historical scholars, and, were it written in a simpler style, would doubtless be found in more libraries. It is to be regretted that our largest and most nearly complete history of Connecticut is so easily put aside for the same literary defect. But the days of bloated rhetoric are past. The nearest approach we have to a well-written history of our State is to be found in a small octavo volume prepared in haste, and by no means devoid of inaccuracy and incompleteness, by the late Prof. Johnston of Princeton. We have excellent literature on subjects of Connecticut history, but none of it is intended to be comprehensive and general. It deals with towns, and counties, and the republic of New Haven (an excellent book by Livermore), and other special subjects. Benjamin Trumbull, Dwight, Dr. Bushnell, Dr. Bacon, Dr. J. Hammond Trumbull, Dr. Hoadly, Profs. Kingsley and Andrews, Charles Hopkins Clark, Drs. Parker and Walker, Judges Baldwin and Hamersley, Rev. Mr. Twichell, and others have made valuable contributions to parts and periods of Connecticut history.

The limits of this lecture will prevent anything like a complete story of Jonathan Trumbull and his life. He was born of good family at Lebanon in 1710. He entered Harvard in 1723 at the age of thirteen. At college he was conspicuous in scholarship, and after graduation he became, for his day, quite an accomplished Hebrew scholar. One of his college classmates was Thomas Hutchinson, who after-

wards became Governor of the Province of Massachusetts, and who was as distinguished for his Toryism in his official career as Trumbull was for his patriotism. Trumbull was intended for the ministry, and, while he would have been useful as a pastor in one of the small parishes of his day, and would have attained eminence as a theological writer, Connecticut and the country ought to be thankful for the providential leadings which guided him into the immensely wider sphere of his activities and usefulness.

After giving up his ministerial profession, into which he had been licensed, and in which a call had been extended to him by the Colchester church, he devoted himself to general literature, and especially to the study of history and jurisprudence. When but twenty-three years old he was sent to the legislature by his fellow-citizens of Lebanon, and later was sent to the assembly for four years in succession ; and in the last of these years, 1739, he was chosen speaker of the House. In 1740 he was chosen an assistant, an office corresponding somewhat to our modern State senator, although of much larger sphere of duty and power. Such distinguished honors to so young a man, in a period when reverence for age was cultivated to a higher degree than it is to-day, is significant of the universal esteem in which he was held in the colony.

When twenty-five years old he married Faith Robinson, the great-granddaughter of Rev. John Robinson, pastor of the Pilgrims at Leyden and a prophet of great wisdom and power. This attractive girl of seventeen became Trumbull's wife. She continued as his loving companion for nearly forty-five years, and ranks in the highest class of Revolutionary matrons. It would take us too far from our subject to speak at all thoroughly of the beautifully patriotic services of these women. Somebody ought to give you a lecture on that subject.

Contributions to the Revolutionary cause were often collected in the churches, and the gifts were usually made in other media than coin. As, for instance, a contribution in

December, 1777, taken up at Norwich, resulted in 380 pairs of stockings, 227 pairs of boots, 118 shirts, 78 jackets, 48 pairs of overalls, 208 pairs of mittens, 15 pairs of breeches, besides pork, wheat, cheese, sugar, etc.

At a collection in Lebanon in 1780, when Madam Trumbull was the wife of the leading governor of the colonies, after many things had been contributed, she rose from her seat, threw off from her shoulders a beautiful scarlet cloak given to her by Count Rochambeau himself, advanced to the communion table, and laid it there as her offering for the soldiers. This beautiful garment was cut into narrow strips and used by the troops as red trimming for their uniforms.

It would be interesting and instructive to follow in detail the history of Trumbull from his youth to the years immediately preceding the Revolution. In those years he was a man of affairs more truly than any other man in the colony. In those years, it will not be forgotten, occurred the war with Spain and the two French wars, in all of which Connecticut had a direct interest, in addition to the interest born of her loyalty as a colony. In the second French war Connecticut contributed more than thirty-two thousand troops, and, as has always been Connecticut's way, much more than her due proportion.

In these years Trumbull was called to public and private duties of most important and varied character, and he was passing through the experience and education which were fitting him for his subsequent career of usefulness in establishing American independence.

His trade as an importing and exporting merchant was large. He owned vessels, and used them, not only for the immediate demands of his own business, but for supplying troops in the wars.

The extent of his public services from 1733 to 1770 may be imagined when we remember that he was seven times deputy in the General Assembly, three times speaker of the House, twenty-two years an assistant, one year side judge and seventeen years chief judge of the Windham county

court, nineteen years judge of probate for the same district, assistant judge of the Superior court, and three years its chief justice, continuing in that high office until he was called to be governor. He was also a lieutenant-colonel and colonel of the militia, from whose ranks troops were drawn for the war. He was constantly called to audit the public war accounts; to arrange Indian affairs; adjust boundary lines with Massachusetts; to aid in fitting companies for service, and to urge with his personal influence the causes of loyalty to the mother country and devotion to the civilization of England, so far in advance of Spain and France. He was appointed upon many important and delicate commissions to act with representatives of the other colonies about the campaigns on land and sea, and his wisdom made him a chief in all of these councils.

The treatment of the *Snow*, a Spanish ship which was stranded at New London and whose cargo was said to have been pillaged by the good people thereabouts, was chiefly confided to him. The intricate and delicate questions were investigated with skill, and its results were appreciated and praised by the colonists and the Spaniards as well.

More often than any man in the colony, and perhaps in New England, he was summoned by governors and officers to advise about the wars, especially about the most important one, — the second French war.

In 1756, and again in 1758, he was appointed colonial agent at the court of Great Britain. He declined both appointments; but, to the joy of all concerned, contributed his advice and counsel. During all these years he continued his studies in theology, and critically read the Old Testament in Hebrew. His scholarship was recognized by Yale and the University of Edinburgh, both of which institutions of learning honored him with their highest degree of LL.D.

We come now to the period immediately preceding the Revolution.

Formerly the colonies had been loyal to the mother country, although some of them, notably Connecticut and

Rhode Island, had indirectly asserted a right of qualified sovereignty by insisting that colonial law became so only by colonial sanction. But now the service of the mother country in the contests with Spain and France and the Indians was partly forgotten in the unjust treatment by the mother country of the colonies. Offensive taxes were levied in odious ways, and enforced by offensive writs. Fisheries and navigation were interfered with, and the thoughtful men of the colonies were beginning to reason within themselves and with their neighbors more and more about their rights.

This subject cannot be discussed at length.

Few of the colonists looked forward to a struggle for independence. Doubtless, there were more such prophets than are catalogued in the histories. Samuel Adams—all honor to him!—was by no means the only man who believed in coming independence.

As a merchant, a statesman, a lawyer, and a judge, Jonathan Trumbull was deeply moved by the arbitrary selfishness and short-sighted policy of the British parliament and crown. He was early called, as chief justice, to issue writs of assistance,—a tyrannical measure used to aid in collecting taxes, novel in New England, but not unknown in the old world. The writ authorized the invasion of private dwellings for purposes of search and seizure. He declined to issue any such writs, postponing them for one cause and another.

In 1765 the enforcement of the Stamp Act was the burning question throughout all the colonies. The colonial governors were required to take an oath to support it. All but two of these governors had taken the oath; the two were the Connecticut governor (Fitch) and the Rhode Island governor. Just before the 1st of November, at which date the Stamp Act was to take effect, Governor Fitch assembled his councilors to fulfill the obligations of the law, which required the oath to be administered by his council, or by any three of them. The scene was a stormy one, and, after a long and animated discussion, led by Trumbull on the one side and Governor Fitch, loyalist governor, on the

other, six of the council, headed by Jonathan Trumbull, left the governor's presence, and would have nothing to do with the oath. What a scene for a painter—Trumbull bearding the British lion and snubbing the governor in the name of righteousness and freedom! The lower house of the Connecticut general assembly supported the protestants, and at the next election Governor Fitch was returned to private life and Governor Pitkin was elected in his place, and Jonathan Trumbull was chosen deputy in Pitkin's place.

His well-known letter to William Samuel Johnson, colonial agent for Connecticut in London, written in 1767, while expressing earnest hope for a continuance of pleasant relations between the mother country and the colonies, discloses apprehensions of approaching conflict. In speaking of this letter, Bancroft says that the apprehension of some great change—

"Could not escape the penetration of the deputy governor of Connecticut. A perfect model of a rural magistrate, never weary of business, profoundly religious, grave in his manners, calm and discriminating in judgment, fixed in his principles, steadfast in purpose, and by his ability en chaining universal respect and the unfailing confidence of the freemen of his colony, his opinion was formed that 'if methods tending to violence should be taken to maintain the dependence of the colonies, it would hasten a separation,' and that the connection with England could be preserved 'by just and sensible methods' rather than 'by power or force.'"

The presence of troops at Boston to enforce the odious tax law exasperated the people of Connecticut as well as of Massachusetts, and no one was more conscious of the insult than Jonathan Trumbull. His letters to Johnson and General Lyman in 1768 and 1769 are instructive, and indicate, like a thermometer, the thoughts which were stirring in the minds of the leading men of the colonies. Cords that bound us to the mother country were straining to the point of breaking. We quote the close of one of his letters to General Lyman :

"Americans are unwilling to give up their own importance, and become slaves and dupes. The troops sent to Boston, and quartered there the last winter, had not the effect the administration expected. The spirit of liberty is not abated, and it is a mistaken judgment made of the country that the opposition to ministerial measures is owing to a few hot-headed, factious men. The whole body of the people of the colonies prize and adhere to their freedom, and (rather than lose it) will go back to their ways of living in days of yore,—eat, drink, and wear what the land will produce, and they can manufacture themselves. The good women, and even our ladies, very readily lay their hands to the distaff, spin our wool and flax, and make such clothing as is warm and decent, and are willing to give up British fineries for American plain dress, with liberty."

In Dr. William Samuel Johnson, Trumbull had a correspondent who kept him advised, as few people could do, of affairs in England and on the continent, and of the feeling and disposition of the English leaders. He was also fortunate in his correspondence with Richard Jackson and General Lyman, and his own son Joseph, all of whom were keen observers of affairs in England. Trumbull also familiarized himself with the politics of France, and, to a certain extent, of Spain. It is quite evident that he was one of the few seers who discerned the possibility of French assistance to the colonies against the oppressions of England. How strange! It was but yesterday that the colonists so bravely and enthusiastically aided the mother country in her wars with France.

In 1769 he was chosen governor of the colony. This, of course, took him away from the bench, where he had won the highest respect and achieved great success.

Johnson, of whom we have already spoken, and who was a scholarly lawyer, has borne witness to his judicial eminence. We quote a single sentence from one of Johnson's letters:

"Every subject he touched upon, and very few, I believe, escaped him, received new light and new elucidation from his observation upon it."

It would be interesting to tell you about Trumbull in his mercantile embarrassments and his honorable conduct in them, and the confidence, esteem, and consideration which his creditors extended to him; but this must be omitted.

In 1771, after consenting to a repeal of the impost bill by our General Assembly, and being advised of the jealousy of our colony in London and of renewed mutterings of the repeal of our charter, Trumbull said :

“It is hard to break connections with our mother country; but when that mother country strives to enslave us, the strictest union must be dissolved. The Lord reigneth; let the earth rejoice, and the multitude of isles be glad thereof; the accomplishment of some notable prophecy is at hand.”

The Susquehannah controversy was conducted by Trumbull for the State *vs.* Pennsylvania, whose only practical fruits were our Ohio lands and our present school fund.

Trumbull’s services to the colony in the Mohegan case saved for it a considerable portion of its limited territory, and they were characterized by learning, industry, patience, and power.

In 1774 the issues were fast coming to a crisis. The tea had been thrown overboard into Boston harbor, Parliament had retaliated with the Port bill and other bitter laws, and a sense of community between the colonies was felt as never before.

In May, 1774, the House of Representatives passed a series of resolutions, which can be found in the eleventh volume of the “Colonial Record,” at pages 284-5, which bitterly protest against the offensive laws, and the closing resolution we quote :

“*11th.* That it is an indispensable duty which we owe to our king, our country, ourselves, and our posterity, by all lawful ways and means in our power, to maintain, defend, and preserve these our rights and liberties, and to transmit them entire and inviolate to the latest generation, and that it is our fixed determination and unalterable resolution faithfully to discharge this our duty.”

These resolutions (and we regret we cannot quote them all), prepared by Trumbull, are almost a declaration of independence in advance of the immortal Declaration passed two years after, and they should, and I hope will be, found in Prof. Hart's interesting volumes on the beginnings of our history from original documents.

Nor should it be forgotten that on the 14th of June, 1776, Trumbull signed a resolution, prepared by him and passed by the General Assembly, instructing the Connecticut delegates in General Congress to declare the colonies independent of Great Britain.

After a suitable preamble, the resolution reads as follows :

*"Resolved unanimously by this Assembly, That the delegates of this Colony in General Congress be, and they are hereby instructed, to propose to that respectable body to declare the United American Colonies free and independent States, absolved from all allegiance to the King of Great Britain, and to give the assent of this Colony to such Declaration, when they shall judge it expedient and best, and to whatever measures may be tho't proper and necessary by the Congress, for forming foreign alliances, or any plan of operations for necessary and mutual defence; and also that they move and promote, as fast as may be convenient, a regular and permanent plan of union and confederation of the Colonies for the security and preservation of their just rights and liberties, and for mutual defence and security, saving that the administration of Government and the power ought to be left and remain to the respective Colonial Legislatures ; and that such plan be submitted to the respective Legislatures for their previous consideration and assent."*

A day of public fasting and prayer was also proclaimed, and an order followed for doubling the quantity of powder and balls held by the towns.

The people of Windham and Norwich at this time made it uncomfortably warm for one Francis Green of Boston, who was in the habit of coming down to Connecticut in the summer, and even went so far as to suggest that they should "exalt him on a cart" if he persisted in his Tory talk. They

finally drove him out of the State by pelting him with certain missiles, of whose character history is silent. Governor Gage of Massachusetts did not like it, and wrote quite sharply to Governor Trumbull on the subject. Governor Trumbull, however, referred Mr. Green to the courts for his satisfaction. The juries of Windham and New London counties were not the tribunals which Mr. Green wished to consult.

One Colonel Willard, a member of Gage's council, who was another conspicuous Tory, was carried out of the State, and, though solicited to interpose in the affair, the governor never seems to have found time to devote to it.

The Tories at East Haddam and Ridgefield fell into hard experiences, and the governor spoke for peace and good order.

He was an earnest and energetic patron of the project of the coming Continental Congress, and at this early day he was constantly increasing the colony's munitions of war.

Just about this time, on the first of June, when the Boston Port bill was to take effect, the church bells in Lebanon, the governor's town, were tolled through the day. The town-house was hung in black and the Port bill affixed to it, and the freeholders of Lebanon passed resolutions denouncing the invasion of liberty.

And now comes Lexington. Trumbull was at Norwich. Many a farmer took down his musket and left his Connecticut home for Massachusetts. The General Assembly convened in April. Six regiments of militiamen were formed. Trumbull wrote a noble letter to Gage, full of patriotism. At first the Massachusetts people were a bit afraid that it looked like a compromise with Gage ; but, if properly read, it looked like no such thing.

Soldiers of the neighborhood poured into his store for supplies,—and what a building that old war office is ! We have many more beautiful edifices in our Commonwealth, but it is safe to say this that modest little hipped-roof office in Lebanon sheltered, at one time and another, more persons

who were conspicuous in the struggle for American independence than any building in Connecticut, and perhaps in New England. Not to mention many Connecticut army and navy officers who gathered there, here Governor Trumbull entertained Generals Washington, Knox, Sullivan, and Putnam, Benjamin Franklin, Samuel and John Adams, John Jay, Thomas Jefferson, Count Rochambeau, Admiral Ternay, LaFayette, the Duke de Lauzun, and the Marquis de Chastellux. Probably all these distinguished personages lodged within the building.

And now the struggle is on. Beginning as resistance to tyranny inflicted upon colonists by the government which had succeeded Spain as mistress of sea and land, it is to go forward with success and reverses until the colonists become an independent nation.

The war office at Lebanon became at once a center for military counsel, advice, and activity. To Trumbull the New York committee write to intercept dispatches to Gage. To him the Committee of Safety at Cambridge send for 4,000 troops. The project for capturing Ticonderoga and Crown Point was promoted and aided by Trumbull. The Provincial Congress of New York at once, on the capture from these forts of cannon and stores, send to Trumbull to protect them. Soon the same Congress asks him for powder and shot, and General Schuyler appeals to him for money as well as ammunition. To all these calls he responded. To Schuyler he sent sixty-five thousand pounds in money and forty and one-half barrels of powder. To the Northern campaign Connecticut advanced about one hundred and fifty thousand pounds. In the campaign against Quebec he was active.

To the army awaiting Bunker Hill he sent soldiers, powder, cloth, and provisions. Bunker Hill, which taught England to respect us, which made Putnam a new hero, and which prophesied in no uncertain way of the final success, cost Governor Trumbull the life of a loved daughter, who was a witness of the battle, and whose mind was deranged by the spectacle. To the Harlem river Trumbull sent Gen-

eral Wooster with 1,700 troops. Upon Congress Trumbull urged the appointment of a fast to intercede for divine help. The fast was appointed. Congress proceeded to elect Washington commander-in-chief. How much hung upon that choice! Can any one now doubt that the voice of Congress, expressing the voice of the people, was indeed the voice of God?

Trumbull's congratulatory letter to Washington and the general's reply are models of faith and patriotism and mutual esteem. From that time down to the close the intimacy between the two continued, an intimacy which became affection. It is easily within the limits of truth to say that upon no arm, excepting his Maker's, did Washington lean with more confidence than upon Trumbull's through the entire experience of the Revolution.

Military jealousy soon arose. Putnam was the hero of the hour, second only to Washington. He was at once named, and by a unanimous vote of Congress, appointed brigadier-general. Spencer and Wooster were his seniors. Trumbull soothed the troubles as only he could.

Trumbull next organized Connecticut's Minute Men for defense, being one-fourth of the militia. He was chosen by Congress, with Franklin, Harrison, and Lynch, to confer as a committee on the conduct of the war.

The seacoast of the colony demanded protection, and received his close attention. His execution of law and measures to preserve loyalty through the State, and to punish vociferous Toryism, were thorough and successful.

Trumbull had become the special hate of the British. A price was set upon his head. Halters were waiting for him and his sons. But no threats moved nor fear deflected him from the straight line of patriotic duty. There were thirteen colonial governors; only he was loyal to the cause. Thirteen governors entrusted with the interests of the colonists from Georgia to Maine! Where were the twelve? Tories all. But he had no fear to walk alone, supported by his love of his state and the country and his unbounded

faith in God. It required more "sand" to be, and continue to be, that solitary rebel governor than to play left tackle in the Hartford Public High School eleven.

Trumbull's letter to John Adams, when the British evacuated Boston, is pious and patriotic, and indicates at that comparatively early day a prophecy of the coming union and independence at which he had hinted in the resolutions of May, 1774.

But it is impossible to suggest a tithe, hardly a logarithmic part, of our subject's contributions to the war, whose eight years make so important pages in the records of human progress in law and liberty. At the approach of a hostile fleet or a hostile ship, he was ready with a defense of our coast. He sent fresh troops to Washington at New York, who wrote in reply: "The exertions of Connecticut upon every occasion do them great honor." In his letter of that date, the commanding general indulges in warm personal compliments to the governor for his "strenuous exertions and prudent forecast." In the many days of gloom which followed the evacuation of New York, the defense of the Highlands, the retreats through New Jersey, when Washington and the New York Committee of Safety were calling upon Trumbull for troops,—and in the calls there was not always lacking a tone of discouragement, if not of despair,—Trumbull never for a moment faltered or doubted. By proclamation and personal solicitation, and appeal and tireless travel, he made the whole of our little State vocal with patriotic words and warm with works of patriotic service.

He was made by the General Assembly chief naval officer, with wide powers. He built a ship of war and galleys for oars, encouraged Bushnell in his submarine inventions, and contributed many other things to our success on the seas.

In the Northern and Rhode Island campaigns of 1776, Trumbull's advice seems to have been sought by Congress, governors, generals, and almost everybody in a place of responsibility in the Northern colonies.

In 1777 Trumbull met the demands for fresh levies, and filled them.

This year Tryon's forces sneaked up to Danbury on twenty-six boats and burned it, and ran back to New York. The enemy had not come to our soil before. His unwelcome presence called for fresh levies and sleepless exertions for defense at home when so many of our militia were at the front.

Supplies for the army and for neighboring States were furnished by Connecticut, owing to Trumbull's foresight and energy.

To Gates' army Trumbull sent many troops, and the victory of Saratoga, whose importance can hardly be overstated, soon followed. There was sent to Connecticut quite a part of Burgoyne's brass cannon.

And who can recall without tears Valley Forge and the suffering, bleeding, fainting, discouraged patriots? By wise legislation, unwearied exertions, and fresh enterprise, our State, under Trumbull's immediate guidance, furnished freely of stores and garments, most of the latter being contributed by our women.

To the Rhode Island campaign of 1778 Connecticut, at Trumbull's call, contributed troops again and again after our quota had been filled.

Our French allies were on the way to our help. Soon after, in March, 1779, one of them, Gerard de Rayneval, wrote:

"Connecticut is in a good situation. Its government is well ordered; it lacks nothing; its finances are on a level (with demands on them); its contingent of troops is well kept up; its militia is numerous and well disposed, without division of sentiment and without any Tory element. No other State enjoys the same advantages."

The roads of Connecticut were put in excellent order, and the troops well fed as they marched from Rhode Island into and through Connecticut. This year our Connecticut ship-of-war, the *Oliver Cromwell*, gained some good prizes,

and our coast and maritime interests engaged the attention of the governor. The depreciation of our currency called for financial wisdom, and here, as in every department of statesmanship and war, Trumbull's counsels were sought and found to be excellent.

In 1779 the British raids from their fleet upon New Haven, Fairfield, and Norwalk, and their butcheries and burnings, stirred the State to fresh excitement. Tryon, of course, engineered these raids, and, as General Parsons remarked :

"Crowned himself plentifully with laurels from his fiery expeditions upon the rebellious women and formidable host of boys and girls."

In this year, so severely was Connecticut territory threatened from Fisher's Island and other places, that we enjoyed for the first—and, I think, the only time in our Revolution—the presence of brave troops from Massachusetts, who gathered with ours to defend New London.

Trumbull's powerful letter in defense of the American cause to Baron Capellan was of great service on the continent, and in England itself.

The starvations of Valley Forge were reproduced at winter quarters in 1780. How much Connecticut—and its governor, using his private fortune—did for the suffering troops has never been fully told. In the sorest straits, in the spring, Washington wrote once more to Trumbull for help. Trumbull sent him a sealed letter. As Washington read it and its promise of two hundred barrels of flour, one hundred barrels of beef, and one hundred of pork, he said : "If the Lord would make windows in heaven, can this thing be?" But he sent his horse guard, as requested in the letter, and soon the wagon boys from Connecticut came over the Litchfield hills loaded with the promised provisions. As they came into camp, Washington said : "No other man than Governor Trumbull could have procured these, and no other State than Connecticut would have furnished them."

On the 20th of September the well-known conference of Washington, Knox, LaFayette, Rochambeau, and Ternay was held at Hartford. Of course, Governor Trumbull and Colonel Wadsworth were the hosts at dinners and parades.

In the spring of 1781 Washington spent considerable time in Connecticut, and all the incidents of his visit here are full of interest. He was constantly with Trumbull.

It is quite probable that the Southern campaign, which culminated in the final victory at Yorktown, was planned in the old Webb house at Wethersfield. Knox and Rochambeau were in the conference. Lauzun's legion had been at Lebanon for seven months, and Rochambeau's troops were soon to pass through the State to join Washington's army.

The letters from Trumbull to Washington and from Washington in reply, when their hearts were full of joy at the surrender of Cornwallis, are deeply interesting. They both, however, indicate the feeling which their long experience in the campaigns had taught them,—that, even then, it was not safe to abandon watchfulness and military activity.

On the 19th of April, 1783, Washington made proclamation to the armies of a cessation of hostilities. Congratulations poured in upon Trumbull from all quarters of the country and from foreign lands. We cite but one,—an extract from Dr. Stiles' (president of Yale) election sermon, preached May 8, 1783 :

“ We account ourselves happy that, by the free election and annual voice of citizens, God hath for so many years past called you up to the supreme magistracy of this Commonwealth.

“ Endowed with a singular strength of the mental powers, with a vivid and clear perception, with a penetrating and comprehensive judgment, embellished with the acquisition of academical, theological, and political erudition, your Excellency became qualified for a very singular variety of usefulness in life.

“ An early entrance into civil improvement, and fifty years' service of our country, with an uncommon activity and dispatch in business, had familiarized the whole rota of duty in every office and department, antecedent and preparatory to the great glory of your Excellency's life, the last eight years' administration at the head of this Commonwealth,—an administration which has

rendered you the *Pater patriæ*, the Father of your Country, and our *dulce decus atque tutamen*.

"We adore the God of our Fathers, the God and Father of the spirits of all flesh, that He hath raised you up for such a time as this, and that He hath put into your breast a wisdom which I cannot describe without adulation, — a patriotism and intrepid resolution, a noble and independent spirit, an unconquerable love of Liberty, Religion, and our Country, and that grace by which you have been carried through the arduous labors of an high office, with a dignity and glory never before acquired by an American governor. Our enemies revere the names of Trumbull and Washington. In honoring the State and councils of Connecticut, you, illustrious sire, have honored yourself to all the Confederate sister States, to the Congress, to the Gallic empire, to Europe, and to the world, to the present and distant ages."

It would be interesting to quote from Washington, Judge Marshall, and from eminent Englishmen and Dutchmen their eulogies upon Governor Trumbull for his efficient services for the American cause. And it would be also interesting to cite the earlier historians in the same line.

He died August 17, 1785.

When you read his messages, so strong and clear, you are conscious that he is more profuse in statements of his own and the State's and Nation's dependence upon God and of his resignation to the Divine will than are common to the modern style of our reverend friends, Mr. Perkins and Mr. Twichell. It, however, is simply the style of an earlier age. So his letters, like those of all courtly personages of that day, end with protestations of humility and obedience and subservience to the person addressed, which would seem out of place in your own correspondence.

But what a record of energetic life, of faithfulness, of hope, when there seemed to be not even a star in the sky ; of courage, which neither disaster nor defeat could weaken ; of sacrifice, which knew no limit ! In the lexicon of his youth, and of his later years as well, there was no such word as fail. How broad the scope of his vision ! How searching the rays of his forecast ! How fine and patriotic his purposes !

Led by his stirring words and tireless actions, Connecticut furnished men, money, and supplies for the war greatly in excess of her proportional part; but not, as Trumbull thought, in excess of her duty. She could not do too much for the cause and its future. With such thoughts and words he often revived the hopes of the great leader himself when dissatisfaction and jealousy in officers' camps, hunger and cold in the ranks, and want of success along the whole line saddened the bravery of his great soul.

Few individuals, very few—they can all be counted upon the fingers of one hand—accomplished more for American independence than did Jonathan Trumbull.

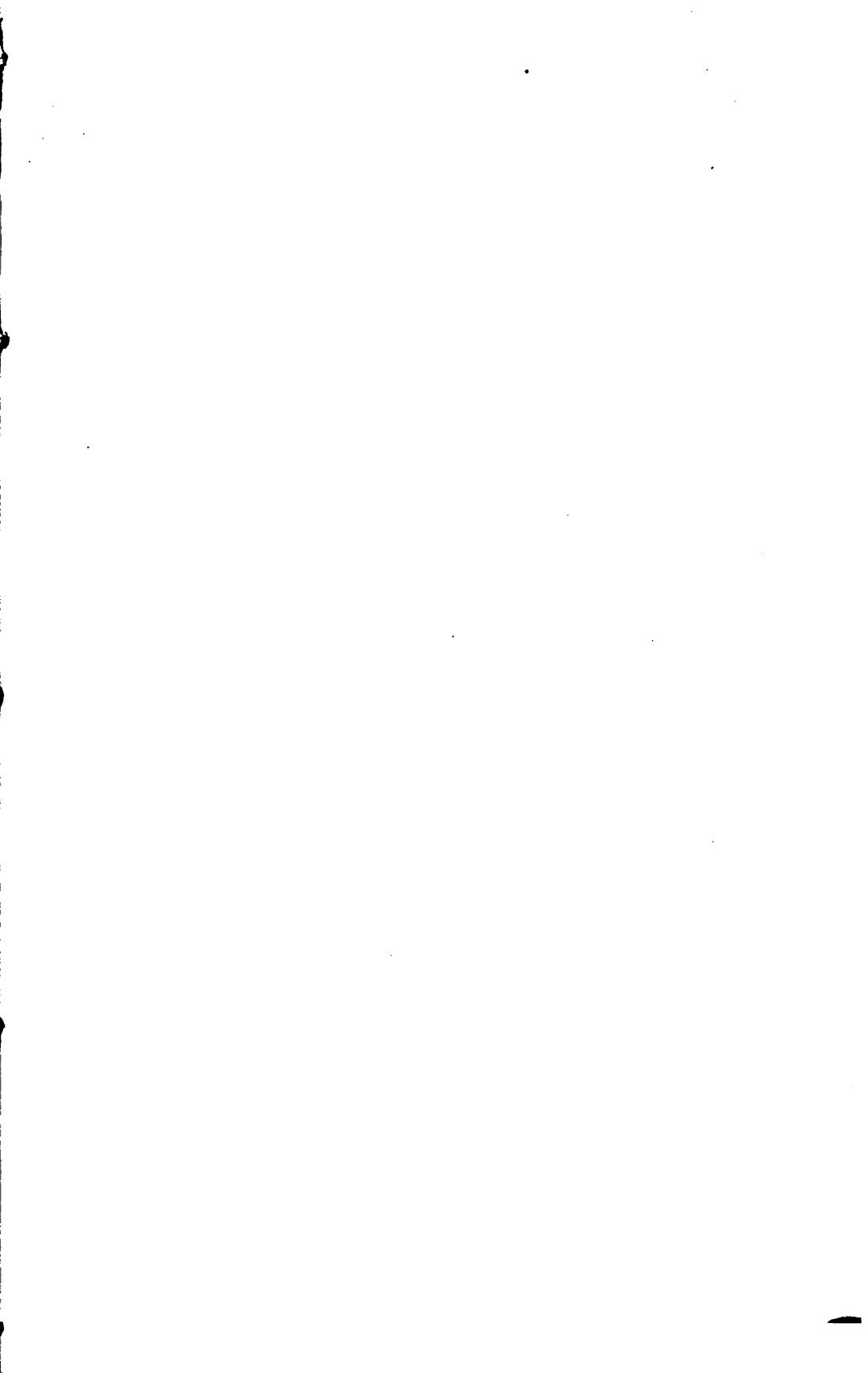
You heard how President Stiles addressed him as *Pater patriæ*. It is no dishonor to Trumbull that within a few months after Dr. Stiles' sermon the country, and, later, the civilized world, applied the old Latin title of highest honor to the one and only Washington.

Washington was wont to speak of Governor Trumbull as "Brother Jonathan." This pet description of Trumbull by the "Father of his Country" has been well transferred to the personification of the investigating, progressive, liberty-loving nation which Washington and Trumbull did so much to create.

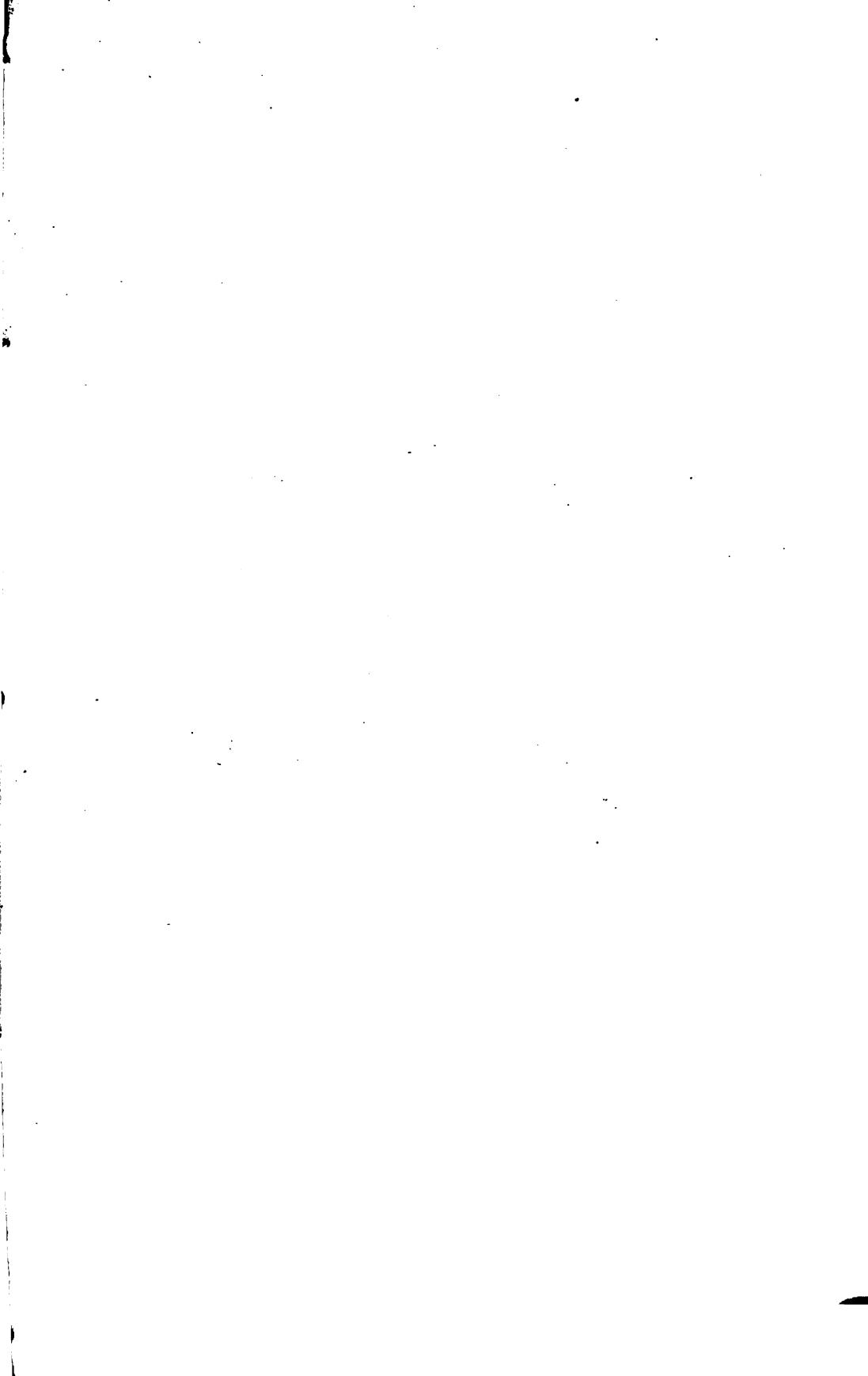
In the corridor of the State House sits William A. Buckingham. The bronze cast of his features and form is not a flattering portrait, but it is a suggestion of his appearance, and it is enduring. He, our governor through the long years of the Civil War, whom some of us knew to honor and love, brought to the executive chamber patriotism, energy, and wisdom in the supreme hour of struggle.

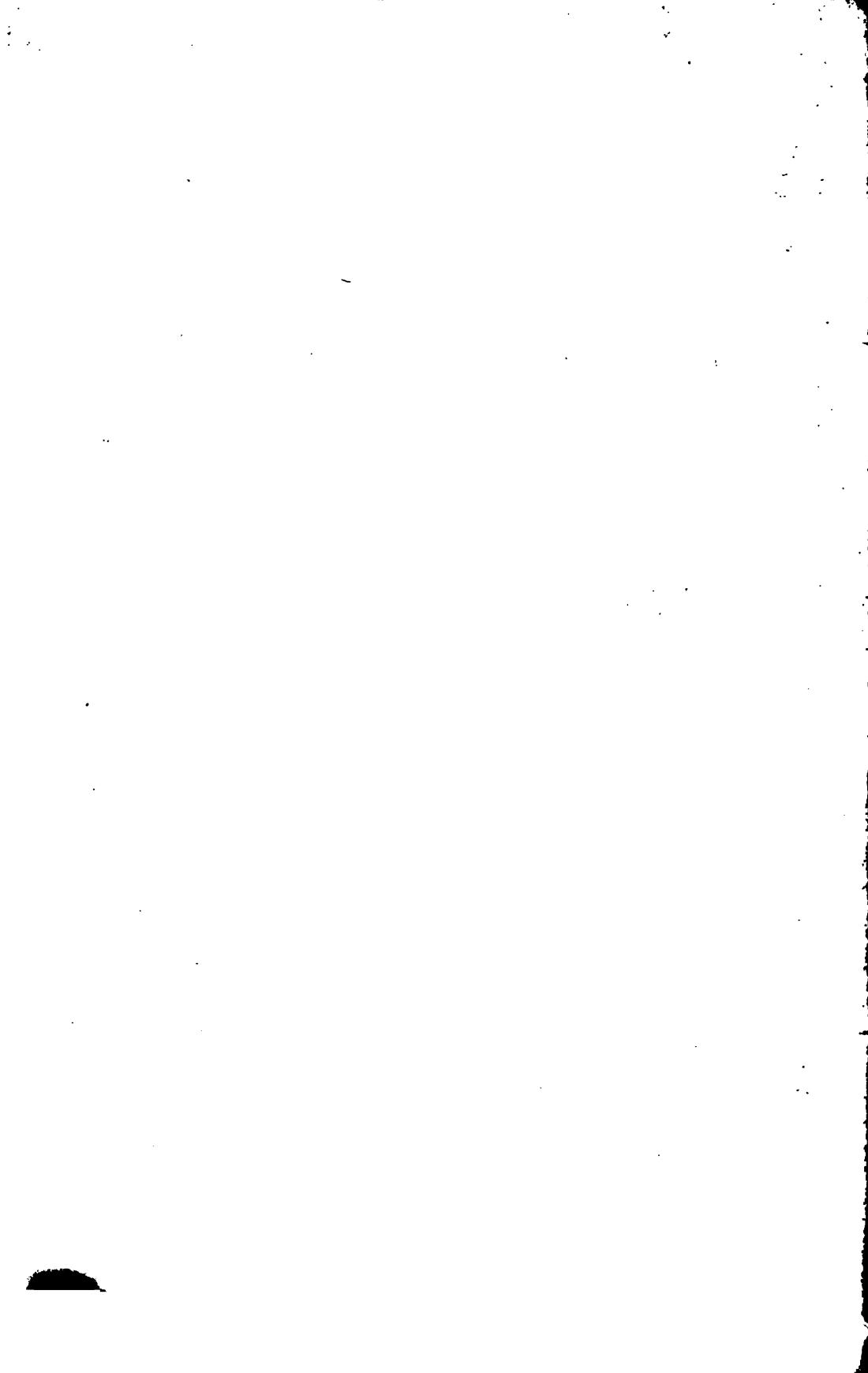
On the face of the same State House, as it fronts the rising sun, stands the figure of Jonathan Trumbull wrought in marble, white like his soul. He was Washington's chosen counselor and friend. He was the leading war governor when the colonies became a nation.

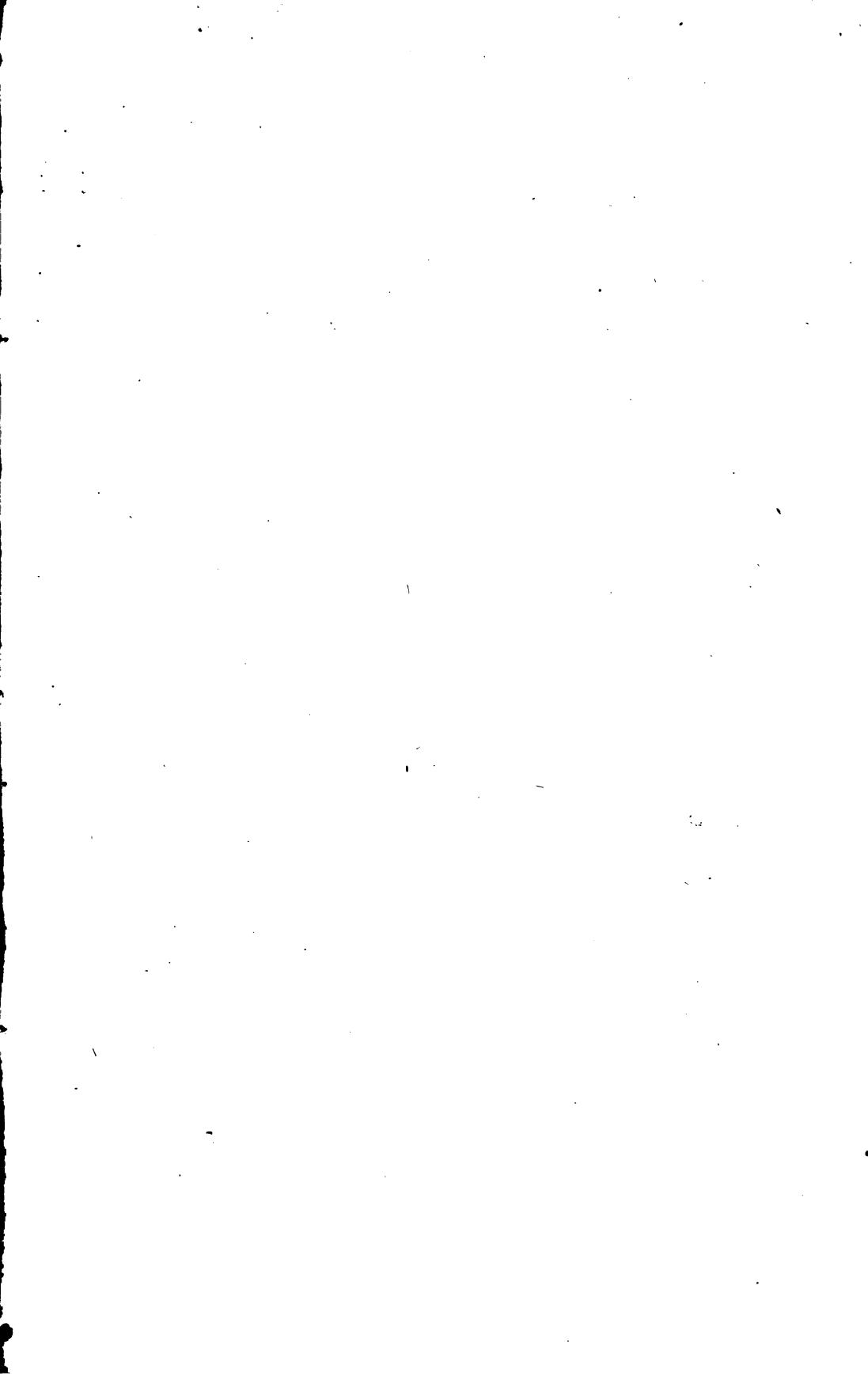














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